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Justice

International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union  
(ILGWU)

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11-5-1920

## Justice (Vol. 2, Iss. 45)

International Ladies Garment Workers Union (ILGWU)

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### Keywords

International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union, ILGWU, labor unions, clothing workers, textile workers, garment workers, garment industry, New York, United States

### Comments

*Justice* was the official publication of the International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union ILGWU from 1919 to 1995. Editions of *Justice* were published in English, Italian, Spanish, and Yiddish. When compared side by side, the content of some of these different editions of *Justice* shows significant differences. This is the English-language edition of *Justice*.

"My righteousness I hold fast, and will not let it go."  
—Job. 27.6.

# JUSTICE

"Workers of the world unite! You have nothing to lose but your chains."

OFFICIAL ORGAN OF THE INTERNATIONAL LADIES' GARMENT WORKERS' UNION.

Vol. II, No. 45.

New York, Friday, November 5, 1920.

Price: 2 Cents

## President Schlesinger Arrives from Europe

On Wednesday, November 3rd, at 11 o'clock, President Benjamin Schlesinger arrived from Europe on the "Olympic." Conspicuous among the great crowd at the White Star Line Pier was

the large group of friends and representatives of our local unions who awaited President Schlesinger. Some of the delegations of the locals came with flowers, and the group from the

Waist and Dressmakers' Union, Local No. 25, quite naturally, brought the most attractive bouquet. President Schlesinger's family was at the pier together with the group of delegates.

As soon as Bro. Schlesinger appeared, he was surrounded by his friends and co-workers, and the greeting soon turned into a true demonstration which drew the attention of everybody on the pier.

From the pier, all went to the office of the International, where President Schlesinger related some very interesting things connected with his voyage, especially his trip to Soviet Russia. Beginning with the next issues of "Justice," President Schlesinger will contribute for the benefit of our readers, a series of articles connected with his trip and covering matters of special interest to our members.

On Sunday, Nov. 14th, President Schlesinger will be welcomed home at a great mass-meeting arranged in his honor by the International Office, at the Lexington Opera House, 51st Street and Lexington Avenue. Representatives from every important labor organization in the city have been invited to attend the meeting.

## Children's Dress Association Sends Another Ultimatum

At the time of this writing, it appears almost certain that the Children's Dress Association of New York has decided to abrogate their agreement with the Union. After having rejected the arbitration offer made by the Union on the clause of the agreement pertaining to the introduction of a minimum wage scale in the industry, this group of employers addressed another letter to the Union, provocative and abusive in tone and style, in which they set a time limit to November 4th for the Union to consent to what amounts to a virtual striking out of the minimum wage paragraph from the agreement.

The reply of the International to this new "ultimatum" was not long in forthcoming. On November 2nd, Secretary Baroff sent to the Association a letter in which the entire controversy was reviewed and which definitely and categorically refused to alter the stand of the Union on the subject. Among other things, the letter stated as follows:

"Your Association and our Union in joint conference concluded January 20th, 1920, entered into an agreement, which was recorded in the following language:

"The Association and the Union agree to appoint a committee, which is to prepare a minimum scale of wages for all

workers in the industry. Such minimum scale of wages to take effect not later than the 15th day of September, 1920."

"The agreement was plain and unambiguous. It was not hedged in by any additional conditions.

"Your Association has failed to live up to the terms of the above agreement and no minimum wage scale has as yet been established in the industry. Instead of proceeding with the consideration of a minimum wage scale, your Association has sprung entirely new demands upon the Union, namely:

1. That the proposed minimum wage be based upon a minimum labor return.

2. That our Union guarantee "the delivery of any minimum production that may be eventually agreed upon."

"To these two items you have subsequently added two questions, one, as to the form of which our guarantee of a minimum production would take, and the other, whether our Union would be ready to agree to a reduction of wages as the cost of living 'will return more and more towards the normal.'"

"To leave no possible room for further misunderstandings between us, we answer all your questions with a definite and categorical 'No.'"

(Continued on Page 8).

## N. Y. CLOAKMAKERS IN WATCHFUL WAITING

The general situation in the Cloakmakers' Union of New York continues to be as heretofore, before the Protective Association had abrogated the adjusting machinery provided for by its agreement with the Union. The Union is, however, keeping a close watch for all possible developments that are likely to arise from such an abnormal state of affairs. The Association has not, to this date, yet replied to the letter sent by the Union in reply to the ultimatum forwarded by the Association.

The offices of the Joint Board of the big organization are a beehive of ceaseless activity. The reports of the various department managers, which came in this week, indicate an excellent record of accomplishment in the interests of the huge membership of the Cloakmakers' Union. A very interesting report was submitted by Brother J. Rubin, manager of the "Protective Division," which controls the shops belonging to the members of the Protective Association, covering a number of flagrant violations of the principle of equal division of work and discrimination discharge cases, which were, however, adjusted satisfactorily to the workers.

## CLOAKMAKERS CAMPAIGN COMMITTEE WINS CONGRESS SEAT FOR LONDON

The strenuous campaign conducted by the Cloakmakers' Campaign Committee of New York in the 20th and 12th Congressional Districts for the election of Morris Hillquit and Meyer London to Congress, has culminated in the signal victory of the election of Meyer London, who received more than enough votes to elect him. But Hillquit failed of elec-

tion by a small margin through the huge frauds perpetrated on Election Day and during the count.

On Election Day, it looked as if every active member and officer of the International in the city turned up at the various campaign headquarters for active duty. Most of the polling places in the 12th district were manned by our workers, and it was due to their incessant vigil until the small hours of the morning, that the election was saved. Conspicuous among the workers were Brothers Philip Kaplowitz, in charge of the watchers, M. Breslaw, I. Pinkovsky and Israel Feinberg of the Joint Board.

## Workers' University Opens With Grand Concert Saturday, Nov. 13

The long awaited opening of the Workers' University of the International will take place on Saturday evening, November 13th, at Washington Irving High School, Irving Place and 17th Street. A grand concert will prelude the opening celebration.

Such prominent artists as Alex-

ander Block, violinist, Miss Julia Hill, soprano, and August Werner, tenor, will participate. Short speeches will be delivered by Prof. Charles A. Ford, Dr. Harry W. Dana, President Benjamin Schlesinger of the International, Secretary Abraham Baroff, Editor Yanofsky, and Dr. Alexander Eichandler, Director of the Edu-

cational Department. Miss Fannie Cohn will preside.

The concert will be followed by dancing at the school gymnasium. A great crowd is expected, and those who desire to secure admission are requested to call for tickets without delay at their local offices or the Educational Committee, Room 906, 21 Union Square.

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# TOPICS OF THE WEEK

By MAX D. DANISH

## British Miners' Strike Tentatively Settled

**A**FTER several days of negotiation, a provisional settlement of the British coal strike was reached early this week between the Government, miners' executives and mine-owners' representatives. The strike will, nevertheless, last for another week, as the miners must express their approval of the terms of settlement by ballot.

Under the tentative agreement the miners will get 2 shillings advance per day unconditionally, until the end of the year. In the future their wages will be fixed by the creation of a National Wage Board. In the event of any delay in starting the wage board, their wages will, in the interval, be settled on the basis of increase or decrease according to surplus profits or otherwise from coal exports. The miners pledged themselves to co-operate to the fullest extent to obtain an increased output.

The agreement is skillfully arranged so that all concerned, including the coal owners, will be interested in increasing the output. There is a provision in the agreement that in case of a decreased output, the owners will also be penalized by a reduction of their 10 per cent. share in the surplus profits.

The news of the solution of the strike has created a feeling of profound joy throughout the working class population of England. It has again demonstrated the prowess of the English labor movement, and while the aims of the strike were limited to a demand for an increase in wages and did not affect more vital industrial problems, its quick consummation and the readiness of the other big unions in England to come at once to the assistance of the miners, has served to cement even stronger the ties of the various sections of British labor.

## Strike of 50,000 Teamsters Hangs in Balance

**A**NOTHER strike of teamsters throughout New York is pending, unless the conferences between the Teamsters' Unions and the Merchant Truckmen's Association will find a way to solve their problems in an amicable manner.

The threatened strike of the teamsters has come about as a result of a demand by the union truckmen for a 40 per cent. wage increase, and, on the other hand, by a counter-demand by their employers for a reduction in wages and an increase in working hours. The counter-demand of the truck employers is one of the first attempts by labor in this city to carry out an obviously well-prepared plan to force the reduction of wages and to lengthen the working hours in all the industries of the city. Emboldened by the success they have had in breaking down the strike of the teamsters about seven months ago, through the aid of the Merchants' Association and other anti-labor forces in this city, the employing teamsters are counting on the support of the same elements to combat the demands of their workers.

If no compromise is arrived at

within the next few days, it is safe to predict that the city will again be confronted with a general transportation tie-up. So far the attempt of the employers to incite public opinion against the teamsters has met with failure. Their "counter-demands," which aim at the reduction of wages and the lengthening of hours, is not as yet a popular issue in New York City, in view of the fact that the cost of living still maintains its former high level.

Even the Merchants' Association of New York has seen fit to make a formal statement that they are not back of the move of the employers to cut down wages and will not support them as it had done in the last strike. On the other hand, the teamsters' unions are determined to gain the upper hand in the present wage controversy, as they maintain, with right, that whatever increases were granted to them during the past two years have still failed to come up to the general standard of earnings among workers in other occupations in the city.

## Unemployment Steadily Growing

**T**HE army of workmen in New York State factories is being considerably and gradually reduced. According to the report of the Bureau of Statistics of the State Industrial Commission, there are, today, approximately 100,000 fewer workers employed in all the plants in the State than there were ten months ago. Since March, each month has seen a reduction in the number of persons on factory payrolls.

The most serious decreases have occurred in the automobile industry and in factories turning out shoes, cotton goods and men's clothing. The boot and shoe industry in New York shows a reduction of 8 per cent. The cotton mills show a reduction of 6 per cent; while the cotton and wool goods industry shows a decrease of 9 per cent. for September. There is a drop of 11 per cent. in sugar refineries of the State and of 10 per cent. in the men's clothing industry.

Curtailed schedules, mill shut-downs and involuntary vacations are also reported from a number of textile centers in Rhode Island and Massachusetts, and announcements from Fall River show a majority of mills in that city continuing the curtailment process. Some corporations have dropped even below their summer schedules, and a four and five day week has been common for some time.

This slump, should it continue growing, will probably reach a climax during next Winter. It has not yet reached the seasonal garment trades, but will, no doubt, affect them in the near future, and the unions in these trades will have to maintain vigilant guard to combat aggressive attempts by the employers to take advantage of the unfavorable industrial situation.

## Anti-Semites Capture Austria

**T**HE elections just held in Austria show that the Socialists who controlled the country since the revolution at the end of the year, have lost their hold on the

Government and that the so-called "Christian Socialists" will have a slight majority in the new Parliament. The Communists failed to elect anybody, but the Socialists lost enough to lose control. And the Anti-Semites who go under the euphonious name of "Christian Socialists" will now probably obtain control of Austria.

The Socialist Government of Austria did its best for two years with a situation in which no government could have done very well, and the recurrent threats of revolt, both from the Right and the extreme Left, were not conducive to their greater success. Unemployment was very wide in Austria; its finances were practically hopeless, and the unemployment insurance which tended to place tens of thousands of workers on the State's payroll, did not, in the end, produce any effective results. The country was impoverished, famished and pestilence-ridden. The only avenue of relief, the greatly sought union with Germany, was expressly forbidden by the treaty with the Allies.

So it comes about that the failure of the Socialist Government in Austria, moderate as it was, to effect relief and to co-ordinate the distressed conditions in that land, was practically due to the ruthlessness of the terms of the peace treaty imposed upon Austria by the Allies. With the advent of the Anti-Semites into power, Austria's future looks dark indeed. The organized workers of Austria will certainly not rest satisfied until these new rulers will have been turned out and substituted by a working-class government. This is a harbinger of another era of economic and political disturbances in Austria, during which no rehabilitation is possible and which will still further delay the reconstruction of life in that unhappy country.

## Japanese Labor Movement Hard Hit

**T**HE labor movement of Japan, which gathered considerable strength during the prosperity wave of the last few years, is undergoing a period of decided depression lately.

During the boom days, labor was scarce and could dictate terms. Now factories are being closed or are laying off workers. There are no accurate unemployment figures obtainable in Japan; but from what is definitely known, it can be stated that the cotton-spinning industry, one of the largest in Japan, is running on 60 per cent. capacity only. Copper mines have shut down; ship-building yards are idle, except the very largest ones; vessels are being laid up and sailors discharged; and even the greatest business houses are reducing their staffs.

Coincidentally with the coming of bad times, the number of strikes has materially decreased and many of the strikes that have been called during the past year have not been successful. As a means of counter-acting the depression which has ensued in the labor world, a number of unions in Japan have of late begun combining so that they might be able to meet their enemy with united forces. Unions in Japan, it must be stated, are still working without any legal basis insofar as the Government is concerned. The combining of the unions might, therefore, offset, to a certain extent, the weakened position of labor, and further hope lies for them in the

fact that the Government, under the pressure exerted by some of the larger unions, is preparing to pass legislation whereby some legal recognition will be granted to the labor movement of Japan. It is a very hopeful sign, indeed, for Japan that the Department of Commerce is at present drafting bills relating to labor unions, in which a provision is made that workers may form organizations of their own initiative, without much restriction, and that after they have reached a certain size, they must be registered with the authorities, whereupon they may receive recognition. It is even more significant that these bills aim to prevent employers from discriminating against workmen who belong to such unions.

A limitation is put on the operation of unions on a national scale in order to prevent the possibility of general strikes. Those, however, who have known the almost insurmountable hardships which have attended, in the past, the formation of labor unions in Japan must admit that the proposed legislation is a notable step forward and that it was won by the workers of Japan after numerous years of struggle against terrific odds.

## "Collective Bargaining" on the Brooklyn Rapid Transit

**A**FTER it had smashed the strike of its employees with the aid of the city authorities, the police and the general press, the heads of the Brooklyn Rapid Transit have suddenly discovered that they were in favor of collective bargaining with their employees. During the strike, Receiver Garrison of the railway company had once written the Mayor, promising that the right of "collective bargaining between the company and its employees will be safeguarded."

Taking a leaf out of the book of experience of its sister traction company in New York, the Interborough, the B. R. T. is now reported to be busily fostering the creation of a "company union" similar to the "Brotherhood" in existence among the railway employees in the Interborough system. Of course, this "union" on the B. R. T., like its model in New York City, is nothing but an adjunct to the road and represents no more the true interests of the workers than the scab agencies that have helped to break the strike. But it is a very convenient organization, this "brotherhood" is, for the autocrats of the B. R. T. to do "collective bargaining" with.

The promise made to the city by the B. R. T. will now be "kept" and the fake union will, of course, be permitted from time to time to have a subsidized picnic or dance to spread the spirit of love and loyalty to the B. R. T. among the rank and file of the workers.

## LIVING COSTS HIGHER

The cost of living is considerably higher than in 1919, said Robert McEachan, testifying before Judge Abschuler, arbitrator in the wage movement of butcher workers.

Mr. McEachan is manager of the Central States wholesale co-operative society, and presented schedules of prices to support his claim. He stated that all contracts for future delivery made by him are based on about 20 per cent. advance over last year's prices.

# Our Membership; The Eastern States

By ALEXANDER TRACHTENBERG  
Director, Record and Research Department, I. L. G. W. U.

In the present instalment of our account of the dues-paying membership of the International for the year ending June 30, 1920, we shall take up the locals distributed through New England and the Middle Atlantic States. The miscellaneous New York locals which were not treated in our article on the Joint Board of the Cloakmakers' Union will be discussed next week.

## Boston

A little more than one-half of the membership distributed among the locals of the two New England States, Massachusetts and Connecticut, — where our International has subdivisions — is found in the Boston locals. There are altogether seven locals in Boston. Four out of these, Locals 12, 24, 66 and 73, comprise the Cloakmakers' organizations which are affiliated with the Joint Board. The remaining locals, Local 36 or Ladies' Tailors, Local 49 of Dress and Waistmakers, and Local 7 of the Raincoat Makers, maintain their independent existence. The combined membership of the seven Boston locals on June 30, 1920, was 3240. Out of this number, 290 paid their dues during the first quarter of the census year, 234 during the second, 586 during the third and 2062 during the fourth, while 88 paid their dues in advance. Accordingly, 2736 members, or 84 per cent were in arrears more than 26 weeks, and 2150, or 66 per cent did not owe dues for more than 13 weeks; 23 new members were admitted during the last quarter of the census year; 195 members were suspended for non-payment of dues during the year; and 2296 were released by withdrawal, transfer, expulsion or other reasons, making a total of released members during the past year, 2491. It should be noted in this connection that more than half of the released members from the Boston locals, or 1565, were credited to Local 7 of Raincoat Makers, whose inflated membership during the war was reduced with the decline in the manufacture of raincoats after peace was declared. Comparing the present membership of the Boston locals with that of June 1, 1919, we find a decrease of 487, or 13 per cent.

## Worcester

There is only one local at present in Worcester, Local 75 of Cloakmakers, with a membership of 67 on June 30, 1920. Of this number 43, or 64 per cent did not owe dues for more than 26 weeks, and 37, or 55 per cent were in arrears more than 13 weeks; 21 members were suspended for non-payment of dues during the past year; 9 left the organization for other reasons; making a total of 30 released members. The membership of this local on June 1, 1919, was 75. Comparing the same with present figures, we find a decrease of eight, or 11 per cent.

## Hartford

Local 68 of miscellaneous garment workers had, according to the available information at the Record Department, 135 members, who paid their dues during the census year ending June 30, 1920, 33, or 25 per cent of this number were in arrears not more than 26 weeks, and 16, or 12 per cent did

not owe dues for more than 13 weeks; 30 members were released for non-payment of dues during the past year. The membership of this local on June 1, 1919, was 350. Comparing the same with that of this year, we have a loss of 217, or 62 per cent. The data for this local is incomplete, and the exact membership present may vary with the figures given above.

## New Haven

Locals 40 and 96 of Corset Workers and Ladies' Tailors, respectively, had together 139 members on June 30, 1920. Out of this number 30, or 22 per cent were in arrears not more than 26 weeks, and 15, or 11 per cent owed dues for more than 13 weeks; 13 members were suspended for non-payment of dues during the year. Local 40 had 48 members on June 1, 1919, making a gain of 17 members, while no figures were available last year for Local 96. The total increase of both locals is therefore, 91, or 190 per cent.

## Danbury

The Corset Workers of Danbury, Local 95, had 192 members on June 30, 1920, out of which number 139, or 72 per cent, did not owe dues for more than 26 weeks, and 40, or 21 per cent were in arrears not more than 13 weeks. Local 95 was organized after last year's census, the present membership, therefore, representing a total gain for the membership in Connecticut.

## Bridgeport

The two locals of Corset Workers in Bridgeport, Locals 33 and 34, had a combined membership of 2358 on June 30, 1920; 1236, or 52 per cent of this number did not owe dues for more than 26 weeks, and 746, or 32 per cent, were in arrears not more than 13 weeks; 100 members were suspended for non-payment of dues during the last year, while ten left the organizations for other reasons, making a total of released members of 110. The membership of both locals on June 1, 1919, was 335, showing therefore an increase of 2,023, or 604 per cent. The increase was almost entirely achieved by Local 33.

## Stamford

Local 126 of Ladies Tailors and Local 127, of Operators and Finishers, had together 123 members on June 30, 1920. 117 or 95 per cent of this number did not owe dues for more than 26 weeks, and 88, or 72 per cent, were in arrears not more than 13 weeks. Local 126 lost four members during the past year. Both locals were organized since last year's census, and, therefore, their present membership is a gain as compared with last year.

## Newark

There are two locals in Newark, Local 21 of Cloakmakers, and Local 115 of Dress and Waistmakers. Local 21 is affiliated with the New York Joint Board, and its membership was considered in connection with the New York Cloakmakers' Union. Local 115 had 32 members on June 30, 1920, all of whom were in arrears not more than 13 weeks, making the percentage of good standing members based upon the 13 week period,

100 per cent, which no other local of the International had achieved during the past year. The membership on June 1, 1919, was 40, and, comparing the same with the present, we find a decrease of 8, or 20 per cent.

## Paterson

Local 123 of miscellaneous garment workers, had 44 members on June 30, 1920, all of whom did not owe dues for more than 26 weeks, and 40, or 91 per cent, were in arrears not more than 13 weeks; 29 members left the local for various reasons during last year. Having been organized only this year, the present membership is a total gain compared with last year's census.

(Continued on Page 7)

Distribution of Members of I. L. G. W. U. Locals in New England and the Middle Atlantic States, and Comparison of Membership in the Various Locals Between Census Ending June 1, 1919, and June 30, 1920.

Locals	Total Dues Paying Members June 30, 1920	Total Dues Paying Members June 1, 1919	Total Increase in Membership 1-1-1919 to 30-6-1920	Percentage Increase in Membership 1-1-1919 to 30-6-1920	Percentage of Good Standing Members Based Upon 13-Week Period June 30, 1920
<b>Boston</b>					
7	307	854	-547	-64	75
12	250	231	19	8	81
24	408	404	4	1	64
36	181	57	124	218	60
49	1370	1537	-167	-11	60
56	658	576	82	14	70
73	66	68	-2	-3	92
Totals	3240	3727	-487	-13	66
<b>Worcester</b>					
75	67	75	-8	-11	55
<b>Hartford</b>					
68	133	350	-217	-62	12
<b>New Haven</b>					
40	65	48	17	35	17
96	74	..	74	..	5
Totals	139	48	91	190	11
<b>Danbury</b>					
95	192	..	192	..	91
<b>Bridgeport</b>					
33	2264	280	1984	709	30
34	94	55	39	71	80
Totals	2358	335	2023	604	32
<b>Stamford</b>					
126	46	..	46	..	85
127	77	..	77	..	64
Totals	123	..	123	..	72
<b>Newark</b>					
115	32	..	32	..	100
<b>Paterson</b>					
123	44	..	44	..	91
<b>Trenton</b>					
87	58	..	58	..	95
<b>Philadelphia</b>					
9	2406	2349	57	2	59
15	4543	4290	253	6	58
53	180	156	24	15	53
69	864	744	120	16	47
Totals	7993	7529	464	6	57
<b>Scranton</b>					
125	87	..	87	..	86
<b>Baltimore</b>					
4	360	332	28	8	53
72	21	25	-4	-16	..
101	125	126	-1	-1	44
110	23	22	1	5	48
Totals	529	505	24	5	51
Grand Totals	14993	12609	2384	19	..

According to the above table the total membership of the locals of our International in Massachusetts, Connecticut, New Jersey, Pennsylvania and Maryland on June 30, 1920, was 14,993. Comparing this membership with that of June 1, 1919, which was 12,609, we have an increase during the past year of 2,384, or 19 per cent. The percentage of good standing members, based upon the 13-week period, varies from 11 in New Haven to 100 in Newark.

# JUSTICE

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 R. SCHLESINGER, President S. TANOFFSKY, Editor.  
 A. BAROFF, Sec'y-Treas. E. LIEBERMAN, Business Mgr.  
 MAX D. DANISH, Managing Editor  
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## EDITORIALS

### WHY CONTRACTS?

There is a certain element in the labor movement that is opposed in principle to making agreements with employers. Their point of view is that a contract binds the workers hand and foot and makes it impossible for them in many cases, to act in accordance with their convictions. In the case of a sympathy strike, for instance, workers who have contracts with their employers are compelled to remain in their shops, notwithstanding the ardent desire to aid their fellow workers in a just struggle. Frequently, a contract compels workers to bear in silence grievances which they entertain against their employers.

These arguments are quite sound. A contract is a double-edged weapon, and limits, to a certain extent, the freedom of the workers' action. But it limits to just as great a degree the freedom of action of the employer. A contract imposes certain obligations upon the latter which he must meet, and workmen who are not mere theoreticians, but practical persons are therefore willing to come to agreements with their employers, even though they know in advance that this agreement might deprive them of a certain amount of freedom to which they are fully entitled as intelligent and thinking men and women. These calculations, however, have merit only when the workers are dealing with employers who have a sense of responsibility, and who, at least, live up to ordinary business morals and conventions. Such employers do not like the idea to be openly branded as violators of agreements. With such a class of employers it is worth while to conclude an agreement, as it may reasonably be expected that they would live up to its terms.

Can we say that much, however, for the employers with which our Union is called upon to deal? Are our cloak manufacturers of that type of responsible business men upon whose word and signature one may rely? The history of all the struggles which our Union has been compelled to wage against employers in our various industries bears very strongly testimony that the manufacturers with whom our unions come in contact, never keep their word and that the contracts which they conclude with the Union are violated by them, both in letter and spirit, even before the very ink with which they are signed is dry.

And the question arises: If such they be, our employers, men without a sense of obligation and without reliability, what is the practical sense of making agreements with them? Why should our workers bind themselves by contracts which the employers never mean to carry out from the very outset? We think it unnecessary to delve at this point into the pages of the book of struggles between our Union and the employers. Why, indeed, seek examples in the past, when we have repetitions of these violations occurring every day. Take for instance the Protective Association of the Cloak Manufacturers in New York City. After a long fight, this organization concluded an agreement with the Joint Board of the Cloakmakers. The cloakmakers abided by this agreement under the most trying conditions. It is true they have demanded several months ago an increase in wages because the wages which they were receiving were altogether out of proportion with the prevailing high cost of living. Nevertheless, they did not break the agreement and did not leave their shops to give expression to this demand. The cloak employers at that time raised a hue and cry in the press, and Governor Smith of New York deemed it necessary to take a hand in the situation. The Governor appointed a commission to investigate the demand of the workers, and both sides agreed to submit to the decision of this Commission. The Commission held several sessions, made a thorough investigation of the entire matter, and granted a decision to the effect that the wages of all workers in the industry, without exception, be increased.

Notwithstanding all this, from the very first week after the decision had been rendered, the employers began to employ various tricks to escape the effect of that decision. The cloak manufacturers remained true to their time-honored method of dodging obligations and violating responsibilities. So much so, that the question arises, again, very pertinently: How long shall the Unionists on with this game of contract-making which binds only one side, the responsible side, the Union, and is being ignored and violated upon every opportunity by the other side, the employers?

Take another instance, the case of the employers' association in the Children's Dress Industry. The Children's Dressmakers' Union, Local No. 50, signed an agreement, some time ago, with the employers in the industry, to the effect that a minimum scale of wages for all the workers in the industry be established therein not later than Sept. 15th, 1920. When the time of performance came about, the manufacturers began to look for various subterfuges in order to defeat the introduction of this minimum scale. The International Union thereupon proposed that the entire matter be given over to arbitration, offering to abide by the decision of an impartial committee. The employers rejected this offer of arbitration.

Could anything be clearer in this case, too, that we are dealing

with persons who are utterly devoid of every sense of regard for public opinion; persons who are so small and petty that they do not care what the rest of the world might think or say of them, as long as they can deprive their workers of another dollar! Can contracts be made with such people, and if made, what benefit or use can the workers derive from these?

Of course, we are confident that in this case, like on many previous occasions, our International will eventually force these irresponsible to live up to their contract. They will be taught a lesson that will compel them to be on their good behavior in the future. But how long will this good behavior last? These peculiar creatures, our employers, in addition to their lack of a sense of honor, are endowed with very short memories. They very soon forget the lessons taught to them and commence behaving in good old fashion. By concluding a contract with such or similar associations of employers, the union, therefore, lends only an unmerited attestation of good faith to these groups of employers.

If this were only a single instance, it would probably be worth while to make another attempt at it. But it is an old story; it is the curse of our entire industry, that it is in the hands of such persons, upon whose word one cannot rely, who are so petty and mean that for a few cents they are ready to sell their very soul and trample upon their promises and obligations. This is, in our opinion, the most important question before our International and its membership today. If it is, indeed, absolutely necessary to conclude agreements, a way must be found to compel these employers to live up to these agreements. To rely, after all, our own experiences with them, upon their "honors," would be really very naive on the part of our workers. It might become necessary, in order to bring these manufacturers to their senses, to inaugurate again the state of affairs that prevailed in past years, when the sword of the strike was constantly hanging over their heads. There might be other effective means; but to go on concluding agreements with them in the old way, with the practical certainty that they will be violated by the employers at the first possibility, has no sense at all.

We would not want, that our words be interpreted by some workers in a sense that we believe in the inauguration of guerrilla strife on each individual shop. Of course, not. Such a practice may be uncomfortable for the employers, but it is likely to become dangerous for the Union and the cause of demoralization in our own ranks. The fight must be conducted with a system and through the full power and authority of the entire union. Our workers will now, as before, never play into the hands of the employers, no matter how great the provocation. The union as a whole will give the signal to the workers when the proper psychological moment for a fight with our irresponsible manufacturers will come. Meanwhile, they will do everything in their power to make the union stronger than ever before.

There is, indeed, hardly need of importuning our workers to that effect. Our union people know their dues, and the best proof thereto are the reports from all the money which their secretaries about the big sums of money which are daily added to their funds. If there are, nevertheless, in some of our locals such who have failed to do their full duty in this respect, let these few words serve them as a reminder. The Million Dollar Fund which the Joint Board of the Cloakmakers Union decided to raise, will and must be raised. And it would do little harm if even more than a million is collected. We must not fool ourselves. The employers are in earnest. They would not have started this entire business of contract-breaking, if they had not deluded themselves with the idea that this is the proper time to "teach the Union a lesson," or perhaps to break it altogether. The fight, therefore, is unavoidable, unless the manufacturers repent as quickly as possible. Preparation, before the Union today, and after the Union will have won its fight, it will take up for consideration the contract question in full earnestness and will surely find the proper answer thereto.

### THE ENEMY WITHIN

The Lockwood Housing Commission which was charged with the duty of discovering the true causes of the prevailing shortage of homes in New York, has discovered, incidentally, traces of a horrible cancer which has eaten into a considerable part of the body of our movement in this city.

We may purposely "a considerable part" of our labor movement and have in mind Brindell's unions and his Building Trades Council alone. To begin with, it is a shame and a heartache that this sore had to be first discovered by a Lockwood Commission, and that the entire labor movement, represented by the American Federation of Labor, had kept silent about this shameful corruption. The excuse, that it had not known these facts, is too frail, indeed. Had the American labor movement stood at the height of its obligations, it could not have helped knowing these facts. The shame is even greater when it is admitted that the corruption in the building trades was never a secret in the labor movement of New York.

There were enough men in the Building Trades who have loudly protested against this corruption. The Lockwood Commission discovered but little for these men. Articles about the deplorable situation in these unions have been published from time to time in various newspapers. And yet, the A. F. of L., with its entire force and influence, did not do the least thing to make an end to this horrible scandal. Could anyone, under these circumstances, be blamed for asserting that if the A. F. of L. and the entire labor movement of New York has kept silence in this situation, it is an eloquent sign that the state of affairs in many other unions is not much better? Would not such conclusions be fully justified? And it is because of this that we say that the shame of the unions in the Building Trades of New York is not the shame of Brindell's unions alone, but of our entire labor movement.

Of course, this accusation cannot be directed against our radical unions. We have long ago found out this Brindell, this \$30,000-a-year salaried labor official. It was scandalous enough, but not a secret to

anybody, that Brindell is actually the boss of all the unions in the building trades; that he and his henchmen call strikes whenever they want; send back men to work whenever they wish; and that the workers have as much to say in all these matters as the buildings upon which they are employed. Any person with a degree of intelligence, could have understood that such strikes were not being called for nothing. It was known, in fact, that all these strikes were a means for extortion of money from building contractors by Brindell and his gang, though, not everybody suspected that such huge sums were involved in it. The labor movement, nevertheless, kept silent, and Brindell was not only not boycotted, but he played a big role in labor circles. This man never lost an opportunity to condemn the radical unions as "Bolshevistic" organizations, under the cloak of patriotism, the customary refuge of every scoundrel.

Years ago, we hark in this city another fellow in these same building trades. His name was Sam Parks. His misdoings, too, were not discovered by the union themselves, and he was not punished by the labor movement. It was a capitalist court which sentenced him to a term of years in prison, for bribery, where he died. It was thought that the fate of Sam Parks would serve a horrible example for those of his kind, and it was hoped that these unions would never permit a repetition of such a scandal. It appears, however, that Sam Parks is a saint in comparison with those involved in the recent revelations, and that the unions in the building trades have sunk even deeper under the domination of Brindell. There is only a Brindell on one side and thousands upon thousands of obedient slaves on the other side, men who have lost every sense of honor for the few additional cents in wages which he had gained for them. This latter factor, the practical disappearance of the unions, is the most deplorable factor in the entire story. It makes one despondent, indeed, to see so many thousands of workers ready to sell the best and the noblest within them—their independence, their right to self-determination—for a mess of pottage.

It must be kept in mind, however, that no matter how we may

hate and despise Brindell, if the great mass of workers in the building trades unions had stood on a higher plane of intelligence, Brindell could not have operated among them as he did. It is the stark ignorance of the workers and their complete indifference to all that is beyond their petty interests, that has made possible the domination of a Brindell.

The only thing that can and must be done is for the few clear-headed and intelligent men in these unions to continue their ceaseless agitation and educational work among their fellow workers, no matter how ungrateful their work may be today,—for, light is bound to break through the dark walls of corruption, even in their ranks.

### WELCOME PRESIDENT SCHLESINGER

President Schlesinger of our International Union is back with us, after an absence of several months. We shall now have the opportunity to learn from him the impressions and the information which he gained during his stay in Europe.

Seven weeks of this he spent in Soviet Russia. We can only say that knowing President Schlesinger as we do, that he did not waste a minute of his time in Europe in idleness, and that he sought out all facts and information within the range of his possibilities. His personal opinions regarding events in Russia and elsewhere have not, we are certain, interfered in the least with his endeavors to see things in their true color.

His journey will certainly be of great value to him personally. It is hardly possible that he did not learn a great deal during these three months of travel. Simultaneously, his newly acquired knowledge will be of the highest importance for our International in particular, and for the entire labor movement in general.

In the name of the entire International, we wish him a hearty welcome home. We know that thousands among us have eagerly awaited his return and his resumption of leadership of the International Union.

## Travel Facts and Impressions

By SAMUEL LEFKOVITS

### III

That same day I arrived in Vienna. You can imagine how I felt when upon my arrival Comrade Shmitka (who was a delegate to the Copenhagen Congress and is a member of the Austrian Social Democratic Party and a communist in the Austrian army) waited for me at the railway station with a royal carriage drawn by white horses, used in former years by members of the king's household only. What a difference in conditions!

While in Vienna I visited the offices of the tailors' union, the Parliament and the exiled communists of Hungary. The Social Democratic government of Austria has given up a part of an armory for the use of those exiles who have been kept not enough money to pay for lodging, and there they sleep on the bare floor without mattresses or coverings. Their condition is terrible. I was present when a committee distributed to them the daily bread ration which consisted of a small piece of black bread, and upon this these unfortunate exiles must subsist a whole day. But even in this misery, the exiles consider themselves fortunate in the thought that they got away from Hungary and are at least safe for the present. I purposely use the words "for the present" because they are watched by the spies of the "White Guards" of Hungary, who are trying to kidnap the better-known communists from Vienna, and have already succeeded in some cases.

I was very fortunate, indeed, when I left Hungary on the 10th of September because on the 11th the frontier between Austria and Hungary was closed. The Hungarian White Guards wanted to attack Austria and to overthrow its Socialist government. It is an open secret that he so-called "Christian Socialists" of Austria are in league with the Hungarian reactionaries and they aim to help destroy the Socialist government and to establish a reign of terror such as exists in Hungary.

In order to understand fully the political and economic condition of Austria, it is necessary to give a

picture of the Austrian conditions shortly after the war.

By the will of the Allies and especially the hatred of the French against anything German, the Austrians gave away to the Czechs and Moravians and to the Poles, the coal mines to the Poles and the Czechs and the southern part of the German-speaking Tirol to the Italians. There remained the bare mountains and not enough land to supply the inhabitants with mere food, and big cities whose industries could not produce without outside help.

Germany-Austria can produce only one-fifth of the food necessary for its existence. They had used up all their coal and raw materials and cannot replenish it up to the present day. Their money is so cheap that they can buy nothing in any other country. Despite all these conditions, they are still forced to remain "independent." Under these conditions, I was told, the workers were afraid to take over the government as they would find against them not only the bourgeoisie of the land, but also the Allies by whom they had been damned to starvation. The Social Democrats claim that it is due to their foresight that there was no civil war in Germany, which would only have benefited the ruling classes of the land.

German-Austria was promulgated as a republic, and universal equal suffrage for both sexes was declared. On February 16, 1919, an election was held under the new election laws for a National Assembly. From every one hundred votes cast at the election, forty were for the Social Democratic Party, thirty-eight for the Christian Socialists (the peasants especially voted for his party) and twenty-two for the German bourgeoisie. The Social Democrats were, therefore, compelled to make a Coalition Government with the Christian Socialists. The Social Democrats worked in good faith. All the offices of the government were equally distributed between the two parties. The Christian Socialists, however, al-

though they were part of the government and could not offer any objections to the new laws made on behalf of the working class, started a campaign of misrepresentation. This campaign was directed against several leaders of the Social Democratic Party and against all the laws proposed by the Socialists.

It is an open secret that the Christian Socialists are preparing for a counter-revolution. Their plan is to have the Austrian "White Terrorists" attack Austria on the outside and at the same time they, on the inside, would take over the government. But Comrade Shmitka told me that they are preparing for this emergency. Austria has an army of 30,000 soldiers. The army is controlled by the Social Democrats, and the majority of the soldiers themselves belong to the Social Democratic Party.

Austria cannot exist under present conditions. It is like a body without hands and feet. A country in order to exist must at least produce the greater part of the food needed for its consumption or must have enough coal. Austria has neither of these. They need a million and a half tons of coal. All they can mine is 50 per cent—and the balance has to be imported. They can only import 36 per cent. of their actual need, and therefore factories stop, production and unemployment is prevalent, which means misery to the families of the workers.

There are many far-reaching reforms passed by the Social Democratic Party. One is that every factory must have a Workers' Committee taking part in the Board of Directors' meeting and together deciding how to run the factory. Members of these committees cannot be discharged. They also passed the law that the government has a right to take over any establishment. In case the owner of such a factory asks an unreasonable price, a commission has a right to decide the purchase price. There are also many social laws protecting the life and health of the inhabitants, as well as an accident and sick benefit law.

The hours of labor are established by law to be eight per day for all men workers and forty-four hours per week for all women workers; vacation with pay; protection for home workers and a State Board of Arbitration in cases of dispute. But these decisions are not obligatory, and only when both sides agree beforehand are they binding. If an agreement is reached by a group of employers and the Union, any individual employer who does not belong to the employers' association can be forced, by law, to live up to the conditions agreed upon. Night work is prohibited for women and young men below sixteen years of age.

There are 12,000 tailors organized and of these 2,000 were of work while I was in Vienna. There is very little new work. The wages of a first-class mechanic in the different trades before the war were from forty to fifty kronas a week. Now they are from five hundred to one thousand a week, but the cost of living has been raised from 1,600 to 2,000 per cent. and above since the war. Although the trade unions in Austria are strong and powerful, they are still not in a position to raise the wages of the workers in proportion to the increase in the cost of living. The employers, on the other hand, when they raised the wages of their workers, added that raise and more to the cost of their product.

I was asked by the tailors' union to express the thanks of the Austrian workers for the help they were granted in their misery and especially are they thankful for the help given to their children.

From Vienna I left for Paris. In Paris I visited our tailors' union and the Bourse de Travail. The conditions in general in France are just as bad as if they had lost the war. The workers lead a precarious life. The tailoring industry in general is scarcely organized. They have a union, but to have a union in France does not mean very much. In Paris, for instance, they do not have to pay for union officers which are given freely by the city, and the state

grants subsidies to keep up the organization.

While I was in Paris the officers of the Federation of Tailors arranged a little dinner in my honor. After dinner I went to a meeting of the cloakmakers and ladies' tailors and there I addressed the meeting in French. I was very enthusiastically received and when I left the hall they told me to give their regards to their American co-workers. I also visited two co-operative shops which are private undertakings by active union members. One is a ready-made clothing shop, employing about fifty people. The second is a ladies' garment model shop, which is making model garments for export and also working for private clients. Both shops have a hard struggle for their existence, but they expect a good future. I do not want to give statistics of our trades in France as our readers have already had the occasion to read about some from a former report.

From Paris I went to London, but I came there at the worst possible time—since the Jewish holidays set in and I could not, therefore, address any Jewish meetings which I wanted to do very much. The English workers were also busy at the time with their conferences which they held before the Trade Board. The Trade Board in England is an institution composed of employers and workers of a given trade and an impartial man. Before this board the workers or employers bring their grievances and these boards have the authority to make decisions. Usually these decisions are lived up to by both sides. Brother Kines, who was elected in the Executive Board of the International Tailors' Secretariat, was very helpful to me in London. At the time I was there, there was very little work in general and in the tailoring industry in particular. The miners were on the eve of their strike and all London was excited.

In conclusion let me thank all the members of the International Union who made it possible for me to go to Europe as their representative at the tailors' congress. I believe that their trust was not misplaced, as I did my utmost to bring credit to our International Union.

#### WOMEN IN INDUSTRY

Approximately 2,400,000 women and girls are employed in industry in this country, according to a report by the federal board for vocational education.

Since 1916 women in the iron and steel industry have increased 40 per cent.; in the automobile industry, 300 per cent.; instrument making, 300 per cent.; wood work, 100 per cent. The number of girls between 14 and 16 is between one-third and one-half of the total number of employed youth.

The federal board says: "The public needs to understand and face the facts of the presence of large numbers of women in industry."

The report shows that women and girls are going into these industries without sufficient training. Under the federal vocational education law of 1917 every state has an appropriation destined to be used for trade and industrial classes for women and girls and men and boys. It is stated that the labor organizations of southern California are responsible for industrial classes in factories under the direction of public control.

## THE WEEK'S NEWS OF CUTTERS UNION LOCAL 10

By ISRAEL LEWIN.

The amendments to the electing laws in our Constitution were taken up at the special general meeting on Saturday afternoon, October 30th, 1920, at Beethoven Hall, 210 East 5th Street.

The first amendment, the one referring to the consolidation of the General Secretary's office with the management of the Cloak and Suit Division, was discussed for over three hours, and was defeated by a few votes.

No other amendments were taken up, as the meeting had to adjourn at 5 o'clock. As matters stand now we are going to have an old-fashioned election for the coming term. Nominations in the Cloak and Suit Division for all officers took place on Monday, November 1st. The following are the nominees for the respective offices:

Managers—Louis Lipshitz, Sam Perlmuter.

Business agents—Isidore Nagler, Max Lang, Benjamin Sachs, Meyer Scharp, Ignatz Fischer, Julius Bender, Morris Steinberg. Executive Board—Jacob Lukin, Philip Anel, Sam Kerr, Louis Gordon, Benjamin Rubin, Meyer Tunik, Jack Blumer, Chas. Gutwiler.

Joint Board—Meyer Tunik, Philip Anel, Sam Kerr, Jacob Lukin, Harry Zaslowsky, Benjamin Rubin, Julius Cohen.

Brothers Nathan Saperstein and Joseph Fox were elected as poll clerks for the above-mentioned division.

Nominations for all officers in the Waist and Dress Division will be held on Monday, November 8th, at Arlington Hall, 23 St. Mark's Place. Members of that division are urged to come to the meeting, as a matter of great interest will be taken up besides nominations, namely, the constitution of the newly-established Joint Board in the Waist and Dress Division.

The following are extracts from the Executive Board minutes of the past week:

Wm. Sobel, No. 5296A, working for the Rosedale Waist Co., 119 Prince St., appeared on summons, charged with working below the scale and receiving \$33 per week at the above house. B. A. Wilder states that when he originally found Brother Sobel in the shop about a year ago he received \$28 per week while his working card was marked "438." Brother Sobel was then increased \$3, making his wages \$33, while he was called for \$48. The brother in question states that in order to retain the job he was compelled to work below the scale. During the course of his testimony it was also found that he received single pay for overtime and also worked illegal hours, including Saturday afternoons. On motion a fine of \$75 was imposed.

Harry Cohen, No. 7861, working for the Muriel Dress Company, 148 West 24th St., appeared on summons, charged with working on Sunday, Sept. 19th, at the above house. Brother Cohen states that he has to come in every morning to open the place and on this particular Sunday he claims that he did not work but only came in to open the place and waited until somebody came in to take the key from him in order to be able to close up. Business Agent Sonen who was up in the shop on that

Sunday, states that he did not find Brother Cohen working and he permitted him to stay in the shop, being that he was the only man trusted with the key to close up the place. On motion case was dismissed and Brother Cohen was instructed that in the future he is not to open up on Sundays as he will be making himself liable to punishment.

Nat. I. Sumburg, No. 5114, working for Sherman & Morgenstein, 15 West 20th St., appeared on summons, charged with refusing to divide work with the other cutter in the shop of Sherman & Morgenstein and also with defying the orders of the office when instructed that he should not go in to work. Brother Sumburg states that owing to the fact that he is a member of the organization for a long time and the other brother in question is only a young member, he felt that he was not entitled to share work with him. Brother Sumburg was instructed to get off the job immediately and divide work with the other cutter. He was also reprimanded for failing to carry out the orders of the office.

Morris Sobeloff, No. 6741, appeared on summons, charged with being a member of the firm of the Square Dress Co., 48 West 15th St. The brother in question is now with the firm of A. S. F. & S. The brother admits to the charge of having been a member of the Square Dress Co. and claims that since he is with the A. S. F. & S. he has not had any connection whatsoever with the firm for whom he is now working. Brother Sobeloff also states that he was taken in as a cutter in this firm to give him a chance to make up for the loss that he had sustained as a partner of the Square Dress Co. On motion Brother Sobeloff was instructed to get off the job or resign as a member of the union. Failing to follow either of the two courses, he will stand expelled.

Harry Rosenblum, No. 8043, appeared on summons, charged with failing to receive the increase of \$5 per week since January 5, 1920, and also with not receiving pay for overtime at the shop of Simon Weltman & Co., 29 West 35th St. A collection of \$125 was made in this case. Brother Rosenblum admits to the charges and states that the reason he did not ask for the increase was because he had an agreement with the firm which expired in July. As to the overtime, he states that he had entered into an agreement with the firm in July, 1919, to receive an increase of \$12.50 which was to cover all overtime performed by him. On motion a fine was imposed.

Morris Weinberg, No. 2845, appeared on summons, charged by Business Agent Scharp with failing to carry out the orders of the shop chairman of D. Blumberg, 39 East 10th St. As to the overtime, he states that he had entered into an agreement with the firm in July, 1919, to receive an increase of \$12.50 which was to cover all overtime performed by him. On motion a fine was imposed.

Weinberg before the next meeting of the Cloak and Suit Division, to be censured by the chair.

Sol Goldklang, No. 3044, appeared on summons, charged by the Joint Board office with being a member of the concern of Goldberg & Goldklang, 866 Broadway. A letter received from the Joint Board in connection with this case states that in going over the books of the concern, they found that Brother Goldklang drew \$40 per week which was the sum drawn by the other members of the concern, and that on a certain date, when the other partners each drew \$200 from the bank, Cutter Goldklang drew the same amount. Brother Goldklang denies being a partner of the above concern and states that he was laid off last Saturday from this house. However, if it is the desire of the Executive Board, he will not return to the above shop. Brother Goldklang further states that the sum drawn by him of \$400 has been paid \$12.50 by the Joint Board on the same charge and that he would like to have the union get that money back for him, as his case should originally have been settled by the Executive Board of Local No. 10 instead of the Grievance Committee of the Joint Board. On motion the office was instructed to withdraw the working card from Brother Goldklang from the above house, and was further instructed to communicate with the Joint Board and have them refund the \$12.50.

Harry Feder, No. 8183 appeared on summons, charged with working on Sunday, Sept. 19th, at the house of S. Littman, 132 West 26th Street. Brother Feder states that he did work on that Sunday but that he did so because on a certain occasion when he refused to comply with an order of the shop chairman, he was summoned to the office of the union and the manager told him that he could work on that Sunday, he complied. Brother Feder admits that the other cutter in the shop refused to work on that Sunday and that his shop chairman did not order him to work. He further admits that the shop is never locked but that on that Sunday he knew that the shop was locked. Morris Besterman, member of Local No. 1, ex-shop chairman of that shop, states that when he brought Brother Feder to the office of his union in order that he be instructed as to his observance of the lunch hour, the manager explained to him that he is to take orders from the shop chairman, but that he, the shop chairman, understood it to be only on matters that are within the union laws. On motion a fine was imposed on Brother Feder.

#### MINES BREAK RECORD

Coal miners have produced fifty-one and a third million tons more bituminous coal in the year ending October 2d last than in the previous year, says the United Mine Workers' Journal.

In every coal field but Alabama and in Mingo county, West Virginia, the miners are at work. In the two exceptions, miners are on strike for a living wage.

The miners' journal says coal is being produced in great quantities and if there is a coal scarcity this winter the responsibility will not rest on these workers.

"Evidently there is something wrong with the system of distribution and the coal produced is not being properly placed," says this labor publication.



## Switzerland Clothing Employers Import Workers from Abroad

Comrade Vanderberg, Secretary of the International Clothing Workers Federation, of which the International Ladies Garment Workers Union is a part, has forwarded to us the following information, which he requests us to print in full in "Justice." It bears upon an interesting situation here in the clothing trade of Switzerland, and which is practiced quite extensively by employers in the United States, namely, the importing of workers from other cities for the purpose of breaking down strikes or the morale of the workers in their employ.

"I have been informed by the Central Committee of the Swiss Federation of Clothing Workers and kindred trades that Swiss employers send out material to be made up in Austria, despite the fact that a great number of Swiss colleagues cannot be fully employed.

"This practice is followed especially by the firm of Burger, Kehl & Co. from Zurich. Notwithstanding the extreme slackness of business, the Swiss employers, i. e., those from Zurich, Chaux de Fonds and St. Gallen, are endeavoring to import and employ workers from abroad. In consequence of this, continual arrivals of foreign colleagues, who, so far from receiving full employment as they expected, are not long in finding themselves deceived by the employers.

"It is the more natural for the employers to resort to these manoeuvres as the collective agreement in Switzerland is nearing expiration so that there is every possibility of a dispute breaking out at no distant date.

"This employers' practice is carried to extremes in the ready-made branch at Zurich.

"In connection with this situation I urgently request the Executive Committee the Committees and the members of the organizations affiliated to our International, to take the necessary steps to prevent the Swiss employers from having cut materials made up abroad and non-Swiss workers from accepting employment in Switzerland.

"I also request you emphatically to inform immediately the Swiss Federation of Clothing Workers and kindred trades when Swiss employers renew their attempts to draw foreign workers to Switzerland.

"You must therefore see to it that no work for Swiss employers shall be made in your country nor your men go to Switzerland, as long as there is unemployment among the Swiss comrades and no agreement has been reached in Switzerland on the general conditions of employment.

"Long live the international solidarity of the workers!"

### STOP PUBLIC MEETINGS

Right of assemblage has been denied striking miners throughout the coal fields in Alabama by soldiers armed with machine guns. The miners are demanding that coal owners pay wages agreed to by the commission appointed by the President, following last fall's nation-wide strike of bituminous coal miners. The miners were enjoined at that time by Federal Judge Anderson. Alabama coal owners refuse to abide by the award.

## LABOR NEWS HERE AND ABROAD

### RAILROADS OOST MORE

Six months of private ownership of the railroads cost the taxpayers of the country more than two-thirds as much as the two years and two months of federal control, said Robert Woolley, interstate commerce commissioner, in an address before an association of business men.

"Two years and two months of federal control cost the taxpayers \$902,000,000, according to latest returns," said the speaker. "Assuming that the interstate commerce commission, in the final accounting, will allow all the maintenance charges reported by the railroads in the period from March 1 to September 1, only six months of private ownership cost the taxpayers \$634,000,000. That is the deficit in round numbers."

Under the Cummins-Esch law the government must meet all expenses of the railroads for six months from March 1, the date the act became effective.

The railroads are preparing their claims to meet the first six months of private operation and many of them have asked the controller of the treasury to pay some of this money "on account" until they present final statements. The treasury official refuses to pay any money until the statements are presented.

### RESOLUTION ADOPTED BY ITALIAN CLOAK MAKERS, MEMBERS OF LOCAL 48

Whereas, the manufacturers have spitefully broken the trade agreement between their Association and the Joint Board of the Cloak Makers' Union, their plan being to escape paying the increase of \$6.00 which was rightfully awarded to us by the special committee appointed by Governor Smith, and

Whereas, their firm aim is to break the work-week system, and to adopt the old profiteering system of piece-work, and

Whereas, they are seeking to increase the number of working hours in our industry, which would only cause more misery among us, and

Whereas, the capitalists are uniting to establish the open shop system so that they can foster small groups of privileged ruffians and spies in the shops and

### CIGAR MAKERS STICK

One mass meeting of striking cigar makers smashed the expensive educational campaign of employers who have insisted that these workers are "falsely led." The strike was called last April, and 14,000 workers, men and women, responded. It was a protest against the discharge of 200 shop committee men. The bosses have been claiming that these workers are intimidated. To expose this pretense the strikers held a mass meeting and thousands of them were unable to secure admittance to the hall because of the crowd.

The strikers declare they will stick as long as bread is supplied them by fellow unionists and trade union sympathizers. The Cigar Makers' International union has charge of this movement. Its appeal to organized labor for financial aid has been indorsed by the A. F. of L.

### TEACHERS JOIN UNION

There are more than 142 local unions, with a membership of 10,000, now enrolled in the American Federation of Teachers, according to reports by officers of that organization to A. F. of L. headquarters.

These teachers have built up their organization despite strong opposition by every anti-union influence.

bring back the old slave system for the workers, we Italian cloak and skirt makers, members of Local 48, have assembled in a general meeting this 30th day of October, 1920, at the Labor Temple, 14th Street and Second Avenue, have

Resolved, that we stand faithfully by our Union principles and thus notify our leaders to continue their fight against those manufacturers who intend to rob us of all that we have thus far obtained, and we further

Resolve, that the administration of Local 48 and the Joint Board of the Cloak, Skirt and Reefer Makers' Union be assured that we Italian Cloak Makers are from now on ready to fight not only for all that we have so far obtained through sacrifice, but for other benefits which have not as yet been granted us.

### EDUCATIONAL NOTES, LOCAL 25

**Swimming Class** — As noted before, Local 25 has been successful in organizing a swimming group. Those who wish to join this group should notify Miss Gloup at 16 W. 21st Street. The group meets on Monday evening, Nov. 7th, at 7.50 P. M. at the East 23rd Street swimming pool. Be sure to have a pair of grey or white swimming tights, a cap, soap and towel and be ready to take a plunge with Miss Zuckerman who is going to lead the group.

**Gymnasium class** — The recreation class will have its first meeting at Waismakers' Centre, 314 E. 20th Street at 6.30 Thursday evening.

**Hikes for workers.** Beside the

Sunday hikes, those members who are suffering from lack of work during the dull season can enjoy afternoon trips once a week to museums or concerts or other places of interest. A trip is being planned for Thursday of this week to Metropolitan Museum of Art.

### Labor Problems and Other Lectures

The week of the 15th will mark the opening of the lecture work for Waismakers' Unity Centre. Miss Theresa Wolfsohn will begin the series of lectures on Labor Problems on Monday, the 15th and Mr. Herman Epstein will give his lecture on the Appreciation of Music the following Friday. Members are urged to register in advance for these courses.

### OUR MEMBERSHIP; THE EASTERN STATES

(Continued from Page 3)

#### Trenton

Local 87 of Raincoat Workers, had 58 members on June 30, 1920, all of whom did not owe dues for more than 26 weeks, and 55, or 95 per cent, were in arrears not more than 13 weeks. Seven members left the organization during last year. The local was organized after the census of June 1, 1919, and the present membership is a total gain over last year.

#### Philadelphia

The largest membership of our International, besides New York, is found in Philadelphia. There are altogether four locals, Locals 2, 53 and 69, comprising the Cloakmakers' Union and Local 15 of Dress & Waistmakers. The total membership of the four Philadelphia locals on June 30, 1920, was 7993, out of which number 663 paid their dues during the first quarter of the census year, 995 during the second, 1754 during the third, and 4449 during the fourth; 332 members paid their dues in advance. Accordingly, 6335 members, or 79 per cent did not owe dues for more than 26 weeks, and 4381, or 57 per cent were in arrears not more than 13 weeks; 123 members were admitted during the last quarter of the census year; 1174 were suspended for non-payment of dues; and 928 left the organizations for various other reasons, bringing the total of released members during the year to 2102. The total membership of these locals on June 1, 1919, was 7529, showing, therefore, an increase of 464, or 6 per cent.

#### Scranton

Local 125 of Cloakmakers, had on June 30, 1920, 57 members, all of whom did not owe dues for more than 26 weeks, and 75, or 86 per cent, were in arrears not more than 13 weeks; 12 members left the organization for various reasons during the last year. The total having been organized only in December, 1919, the present membership represents a total gain over that of last year.

#### Baltimore

The total membership of the International in the South is found in Baltimore. There are four locals, Locals 4, 101 and 110, comprising the Cloakmakers' Union, and Local 72, the Whitegoods Workers. The combined membership of the four locals on June 30, 1920, was 529, 57 of whom paid their dues during the first quarter of the census year, 77 during the second, 117 during the third, and 255 during the fourth. Two members paid their dues in advance. Accordingly, 374, or 75 per cent, owed dues for not more than 26 weeks, and 257, or 51 per cent, were in arrears not more than 13 weeks; 36 members were suspended for non-payment of dues during the past year, while five left the organization for various other reasons, making the total of released members 41. The total dues-paying membership on June 1, 1919, of the four locals was 505, showing a gain of 24, or 5 per cent.

(To be continued)

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(Continued from Page 1)

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put. The same holds good of every arrangement for a minimum wage whether established by contract or by law.

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Solomon & Metzler,  
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15 West 34th St.  
Mack Kanauer & Milnes,  
126 Madison Ave.  
M. Stern,  
33 East 33rd St.  
Max Cohen,  
105 Madison Ave.  
Julian Waist Co.,  
15 East 32nd St.  
Dreswell Dress Co.,  
14 East 32nd St.  
Regina Kohler,  
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## CUTTERS' UNION LOCAL 10, ATTENTION.

NOTICE OF REGULAR MEETINGS

WAIST AND DRESS: Nomination Night, Monday, Nov. 8th.

MISCELLANEOUS: Nomination Night, Monday, Nov. 15th

GENERAL: Nomination Night, Monday, Nov. 29th

CLOAK AND SUIT: Monday, December 6th.

Meetings begin at 7.30 P. M.

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